

Appln No. 10/773,184
Amdt. Dated May 8, 2006
Response to Office Action of February 9, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action of February 9, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Specification

Page 1 of the specification has been updated: the first line of Page 1 of the specification has been deleted and replaced by a paragraph entitled "Cross Reference to Related Applications". The Applicant submits that this amendment introduces no new matter.

Regarding Amendments

Independent claims 1, 19 and 38 are amended to respectively incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 17, 36 and 53;

dependent claims 9 and 28 are amended to omit the recitation "to heat said part";

dependent claims 17, 36 and 53 are amended to specify that the mass of solid material of the heater elements which is heated is less than two nanograms. Support for this amendment can be found at page 36, lines 10-17 of the present specification;

dependent claims 18 and 37 are amended to omit the term "substantially" from the recitations "each heater element is substantially covered";

dependent claim 23 is cancelled; and

dependent claims 2-8, 10-16, 20-22, 24-27, 29-35, 39-52 and 54 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of pending claims 17, 36 and 53 under the conditions stated in the Office Action.

Regarding Claim Objections

Regarding "said part"

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It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to claims 9 and 28 to delete the recitation "to heat said part", provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding "substantially"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to claims 18 and 37 to delete the term "substantially", provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding "support"

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection based on the above-described amendment cancelling claim 23.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the art rejections of the claims over Silverbrook (US 6,019,457), Moon et al. (US 6,761,433), Anagnostopoulos et al. (US 6,502,925), Otsuka et al. (US 5,485,179) and Campbell et al. (US 4,870,433), based on the above-described amendment to independent claims 1, 19 and 38 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 17, 36 and 53 and for at least the reasons given by the Examiner in the Allowable Subject Matter of the Office Action.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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